

**PITTSFIELD STATE FOREST TRAIL PLANNING
PUBLIC WORKSHOP INPUT**

Multiple Groups:

- Improve trailhead and intersection signage
- Improve trail map
- Improve parking and access at West St
- Create new parking and OHV access at Route 20
- Open gates for hunting season
- Make it easier for the public to volunteer
- Authorize / keep trails that are in good condition
- Improve / re-open views and viewsheds

Group A: Recommendations

- Eliminate OHV use at Balance Rock
- Clean up Balance Rock area and rock
- Improve trailhead and intersection signage
- Reduce number of OHV access points
- Authorize trails that are well laid out, constructed, and in good condition, including:
 - Turner connector
 - Honolulu
 - Six Miles
- (This does not mean illegal trails will be or should be automatically accepted)\
- Re-route Skyline to avoid vernal pools by generous margin in Twin / Cranberry Pond area
- Enforce OHV rules in essential
- Create a non-motorized connection between Lulu Brook area and Balance Rock
- Provide special protection for "The Gorge" (west of West and Smith Mts)
- Make it easier for the public to volunteer
- Create a non-motorized connector between Parker Brook and Turner Trails.
- Reroute Shaker Trail to not impact historic sites
- Open up vistas and views, including:
 - Tower Mt
 - Honolulu trail

Group B: Recommendations

- Improve safety / sense of safety at Route 20 pull-off area / Taconic Crest Trailhead
- Improve parking and access at West St
- Improve signage, including:
 - TCT Intersection signage are Twin Pond
 - Near Lebanon Springs Rd

- Near Tower Rd
- Improve / Revise Trail Map, including:
 - Mileage
 - Difficulty
 - Recommended loops for different uses
- Restore / open backcountry ski trails, Shadow and Ghost
- Address Brickhouse Mt Trail / Road
- Improve connection to / at Pine Mountain Trail

Group C: Recommendations

- Desire for interconnected snowmobile corridors
- Desire for snowmobile loop ride opportunities within the State Forest
- Maintain all current snowmobile trails as open to that use
- Keep all existing OHV trails and restore / repair lost trail miles
- Don't "over fix" the trails
- Need funds to both fix and maintain trails
- Full size parking lot in West St area
- Create new parking and OHV access at Route 20

Group D: Recommendations

- Open up access (vehicle) points, too many gated roads, including:
 - West St
 - Potter Mt Road
 - NY Side access
 - Open gates 1 hour before sunrise and close 2 hours after
 - Provide gates for purchase or permit with log
- Make use of volunteers
- Provide / improve parking at authorized trailheads
- Create new parking and OHV access at Route 20
- Establish OHV fees and use for trail maintenance
- Increase timber cutting to create wildlife habitat
- Restore azalea field
- Reopen access to Berry Pond Circuit Rd
- Open Ski Lodge to visitors year round
- Extend OHV use to after hunting season

Group E: Recommendations

- Authorize / keep trails that are in good condition, including
 - Chipmunk
 - 6 Mile
 - Hidden Valley

- Improve / re-open views and viewsheds, including
 - Pine Mt Trail
 - Honolulu
 - Top of Turner Trail
- Restore / open old ski trails
- Expand non-motorized trail system between West St and Route 20
- Improve intersection signage (avoid Carsonite)
- Improve map (map sucks), include trail names
- Separate motorized and non-motorized uses
- Make non-motorized connector trails between trails / add loops
 - Connect to TCT at north end of ridge
 - Connect North Branch / Turner to Tilden Swamp / Pine Mt
 - Connect Pine Mt Trail to TCT
- Provide a free pass to volunteers
- Too many fall line trails
- Use logging to create better, bench cut, grade reversal OHV trails

Group F: Recommendations

- Improve parking and hunting access, including
 - NY Brickyard Rd
 - NY Lebanon Springs Rd
- Maintain trails that exist
- Create OHV parking and access at Route 20
- Create an annual permit and waiver program
- Hunting access is different from OHV recreational access
- Vehicle access is a must for emergencies
- Open gates for hunting season

Inventory Input:

- Griffin Trail in poor condition (parts – PJ)
- Doll Mt Trail is a mess (top – PJ)
- CCC near swamp has been destroyed by OHVs (need to assess – PJ)
- Change width to southern half of Skyline Trail
- Northern “Potter Mt Trail” should not be coded illegal
- Delete trail in north Balance Rock area (Map E)
- West St should be indicated as a road
- Authorize Tower Mt Re-route